

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A wallet for use with a personal information device, said wallet comprising:
a first portion including an input device for receiving a user-supplied entry; and
a second portion rotatably coupled to said first portion, said second portion being adapted to receive and detachably retain a personal information device in the form of a PCMCIA card, said second portion including supply means electrically coupled to said input device and being adapted to communicate with said personal information device.

2. The wallet of claim 1, wherein said input device is a touch pad in the form of a keyboard.

3. The wallet of claim 1, wherein said supply means are electrical contacts adapted to contact opposing surfaces on said personal information device when retained by said wallet.

4. The wallet of claim 1, wherein said supply means is an induction coil adapted to communicate without electrical contact with said personal information device when retained by said wallet.

5. The wallet of claim 1, wherein said input device is a touch-sensitive display device operable to display information to the user, and said supply means is operable to receive from said personal information device control data, and said touch-sensitive display device provides a display to said user in accordance with said control data.

6. The wallet of claim 1, wherein one of said first and second portions includes a memory having pre-stored therein a plurality of sets of display data, each of said sets of display data representing a respective display displayable on said touch-sensitive display device; said control data supplied by said personal information device identifies one of said pre-stored sets of display data and said touch-sensitive display device provides to said user a display corresponding to said one of said pre-stored sets of display data identified by said control data.

7. The wallet of claim 1, wherein said supply means is a PCMCIA port adapted to be coupled to a PCMCIA I/O port of said personal information device when said wallet receives said personal information device.

8. The wallet of claim 1, wherein said first and second portions represent first and second halves, respectively, and are adapted to be held in an open position in which a display of said personal information device and said input device of said wallet are both accessible to the user, and are adapted to be folded together wherein respective faces of said first and second halves face each other defining a closed position; and wherein neither said display of said personal information device nor said input device of said wallet is accessible to said user in said closed position.

9. The wallet of claim 1, wherein one of said first and second portions further includes an I/O connector adapted to be coupled via a cable to an external device, said I/O connector being electrically connected to said supply means and being adapted to provide data supplied from said

external device to said supply means, and said supply means is adapted to supply said data supplied thereto including data supplied from the external device to said personal information device.

10. The wallet of claim 9, wherein said external device is a computer.

11. The wallet of claim 9, wherein said external device is another wallet including mounted therein another personal information device so that communication between two coupled personal information devices is possible.

12. A wallet in combination with a personal information device, the combination comprising:

a wallet first portion including an input device for receiving a user-supplied entry;

a wallet second portion rotatably coupled to said first portion, said wallet second portion being adapted to receive and detachably retain a PCMCIA card;

a personal information device in the form of a PCMCIA card, said personal information device detachably retained in said wallet second portion, said personal information device including:

a display for displaying information to the user;

an input device for receiving a user-supplied input, and

input means for receiving data from said wallet when said personal information device is retained therein,

and said wallet second portion includes output means for providing said user-supplied entry as an output of said wallet to said input means of said personal information device.

13. The combination of claim 12, wherein said output means of said wallet second portion and said input means of said personal information device are opposing electrical contacts adapted to contact with each other when said personal information device is retained in said wallet.

14. The combination of claim 12, wherein said output means of said wallet second portion and said input means of said personal information device are induction coils adapted to provide communication between said wallet and said personal information device without electrical contact therebetween.

15. The combination of claim 12, wherein said input device in said wallet first portion is a touch pad in the form of a keyboard.

16. The combination of claim 12, wherein one of said wallet first portion and wallet second portion further includes an I/O connector adapted to be coupled via a cable to an external device, said I/O connector being electrically connected to said output means of said wallet said portion and being adapted to provide data supplied from said external device to said output means, and said output means is adapted to supply said data supplied thereto including data supplied from the external device to said personal information device.

17. A wallet in combination with a personal information device, the combination comprising:
a personal information device having a display, an input device and an induction coil; and
a wallet having an input device and an induction coil, said wallet being adapted to receive and detachably retain said personal information device, and
said induction coil of said personal information device and said induction coil of said wallet are adapted to communicate with each other without electrical contact therebetween when said personal information device is retained by said wallet.

18. The combination of claim 17, wherein said personal information device is a PCMCIA card adapted to connect to a PCMCIA port of a device.

19. The combination of claim 17, wherein said input device of said wallet is operable to be turned on and off; said personal information device includes means for supplying a wake signal to said wallet when said personal information device is retained by said wallet; and said wallet further includes control means for operatively controlling said input device of said wallet to turn on in response to receipt of said wake signal by said wallet.

20. The combination of claim 17, wherein said input device of said wallet is operable to be turned on; said personal information device includes means for controlling said induction coil of said personal information device to supply a wake signal to said wallet; and said input device of

said wallet is adapted to be automatically turned on when said induction coil of said wallet receives said wake signal.

21. The combination of claim 20, wherein said means for controlling controls said induction coil of said personal information device to supply a stay-awake signal periodically.

22. The combination of claim 21, wherein said input device of said wallet is adapted to turn off if a stay-awake signal is not received by said wallet within a predetermined period of time after receiving a previously received stay-awake signal.

23. The combination of claim 17, wherein said wallet includes a limited power source for supplying power to said wallet; and said input device of said wallet is adapted to utilize power supplied from said limited power source when a wake signal is received by said induction coil of said wallet; and said personal information device includes means for controlling said induction coil of said personal information device to supply said wake signal when said personal information device is turned on and is retained by said wallet.

24. The combination of claim 17, wherein said wallet includes a wallet first portion having said input device for receiving a user-supplied entry and a wallet second portion rotatably coupled to said wallet first portion, said wallet second portion being adapted to receive and detachably retain said personal information device.

25. A method of communication between a personal information device and a wallet having an input device therein, said wallet adapted to receive and detachably retain said personal information device, said method comprising the steps of:

mechanically coupling said personal information device to said wallet;
supplying from said personal information device to said wallet a wake signal after said personal information device and said wallet are coupled;
receiving by said wallet said wake signal supplied by said personal information device; and
turning on said input device of said wallet automatically in response to said wallet receiving said wake signal.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein said step of supplying is carried out by supplying said wake signal via an induction coil of said personal information device; and said step of receiving is carried out by an induction coil of said wallet.

27. The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of supplying from said personal information device to said wallet a stay-awake signal periodically.

28. The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of turning off said input device of said wallet if said wallet does not receive a stay-awake signal within a predetermined period of time after receiving a previously received stay-awake signal.